

Abbreviations	iv
Rocky Flats NWR Land Protection Plan for Section 16 Acquisition	3
1.0 Introduction and Project Description.....	3
1.1 Purpose for Action	3
1.2 Need for Action.....	3
1.3 Planning Context.....	4
2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives	5
2.1 Protection Alternatives.....	5
3.0 Coordination and Consultation.....	11
Rocky Flats Environmental Assessment	15
1.0 Introduction and Project Description.....	15
1.1 Background	15
1.2 Proposed Action.....	15
1.3 Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action	16
1.4 Decisions to Be Made	18
1.5 Issues Identified and Selected for Analysis.....	18
1.6 National Wildlife Refuge System and Authorities.....	22
2.0 Description of Alternatives	24
2.1 Introduction.....	24
2.2 Alternative A – No Change to the Administrative Boundary of the Refuge and Direct Sale of Transportation Corridor (No-action Alternative).....	25
2.3 Alternative B – Expand the Administrative Boundary of the Refuge and Complete a Land Exchange for Holdings at the Refuge (Proposed Action)	25
2.4 Alternative C – No Change to the Administrative Boundary of the Refuge and Complete a Land Exchange for Holdings at Other Refuges in Colorado	30
2.5 Alternative D – Expand the Administrative Boundary of the Refuge and Complete a Land Exchange for Holdings at Other Refuges in Colorado.....	32
2.6 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis.....	32
3.0 Affected Environment.....	35
3.1 Physical Environment	35
3.2 Biological Environment	40
3.3 Cultural Resources	52
3.4 Socioeconomic Environment	57
4.0 Environmental Consequences	63
4.1 Effects on the Physical Environment	63

4.2	Effects on the Biological Environment.....	65
4.3	Effects on Cultural Resources.....	74
4.4	Effects on the Socioeconomic Environment.....	75
4.5	Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources.....	79
4.6	Cumulative Impacts	79
5.0	Coordination and Environmental Review.....	91
5.1	Agency Coordination	91
5.2	Contaminants and Hazardous Materials.....	91
5.3	National Environmental Policy Act	91
5.4	List of Preparers and Reviewers	92
	Bibliography.....	97

Appendices

Appendix A	Rocky Flats Act
Appendix B	Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Species List
Appendix C	Phase 1 Environmental Assessment of Section 16
Appendix D	Process for Evaluation of Competing Applications
Appendix E	City of Golden Proposal
Appendix F	Jefferson Parkway Public Highway Authority Proposal
Appendix G	FWS Letter to CDPHE and EPA and EPA/CDPHE Response
Appendix H	Scoping Letters from Government Agencies
Appendix I	Public Comments and Responses
Appendix J	Finding of No Significant Impact
Appendix K	Endangered Species Act Section 7 Biological Opinion
Appendix L	Approval by FWS Director

Figures

Figure 1.	Rocky Flats NWR, including potential land exchange parcels.	6
Figure 2.	Rocky Flats NWR and its landscape context with existing open space.	7
Figure 3.	The present and proposed boundaries of Rocky Flats NWR.....	27
Figure 4.	Current surface and mineral estate ownership on and around Rocky Flats NWR.....	29

Figure 5. Arapaho NWR, including inholdings. 31

Figure 6. Baca NWR, including inholdings. 33

Figure 7. The vegetation and land cover of the proposed acquisition area in section 16..... 41

Figure 8. Connectivity of Rocky Flats with existing open space..... 68